

# No. Bruns. cops eye state-of-art computer

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**NORTH BRUNSWICK** — The police department may now be able to buy what it categorizes as one of the most sophisticated computer systems around, following this week's Township Council approval of a \$70,000 bond ordinance.

Mayor Paul Matacera said the money and other funds appropriated last fall will be used. Officials haven't made public their estimate of the system's cost.

Some features of the system would enable police officers to gather information about a situation and send it to patrolmen as they were answering a call. Simply by entering the location of the caller into the computer, the officers would be able to determine if there was a handicapped resident, guard dogs, guns or other situations on the premises that would require special consideration.

Through 911 calls, the information would automatically become available to the dispatcher.

"Everytime an officer goes on call, he walks into the unknown," said Lt. Robert Wills, the department's training and planning officer. "They are trained for it, but the more information an officer has the more he will be able to avoid the potential risks."

Wills said the type of computer the department wants would give a police officer a better idea of how he should respond to a call for help.

"In terms of officer safety it's a win and in terms of protecting the community, it's a win," he said.

The computer system would also be programmed to provide information about crime patterns, predicting where and when crimes would be most likely to occur.

The system could also link the department to state and federal crime information systems.

Police Director George Lepre said the department began its search for a computer system in June 1986. Police hired a consultant to help choose the right system.

"We were shopping for a system that would not only serve our needs today but also 10 years from now without having to go and buy a whole new system, said Wills.

"To sum it up, our imagination is the only limitation," said Lepre about the system.

Bids for the system will be opened March 29. An earlier bid submitted in January had to be rejected because of a paperwork error.

Wills said the department hopes to award a contract by the beginning of April, and would like to have the system in place and operating by late September or early October.